(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Telephone No. 5511522 has not been shifted to new address due to outstanding bills of Rs. 4391/- against this phone.

Violation of Tender Norms by DOT

999. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "DOT throws norms to winds to accommodate violations" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 11th July, 2001;

(b) if so, whether DOT has deliberately ignored gross violations of tender norms for the fourth cellular license by a private company which has caused a loss of Rs. 200 crore to Government.

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been no violation of the tender norms and no loss has been caused to the Government on account thereof. The Notice inviting Tender (NIT) for induction of additional cellular operators in various service areas in the country was floated on 9.3.2001. The pre-qualification bids received in response to NIT were opened on 29.6.2001. Pre-qualification bids were evaluated in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the tender document.

The eligibility criteria as contained in Clasue 5.1 (vi) of the Tender Document provided that "Any number of Indian Companies as well as foreign Companies may join together to promote the joint venture bidder company. However, an Indian company or a foreign company cannot be part of more than one such joint venture bidder company. The same Indian company in its sole capacity can bid either by itself or through its joint venture company."

While evaluating the pre-qualification bids it was found that two Reliance group companies namely, M/s. Reliable Internet Services Limited and Reliance Communications Private Limited had submitted

their bids for 15 Service Areas each. Form the equity structure of these two companies, it was found that none of their partners arc common and as such there was no violation to the eligibility criteria prescribed in the Tender Document. However, in order to ensure fair competition, all the bidders were asked to confirm that there is no common interest of any of the partners/promoters/constituents in any other bidding company who has bid for the same service area and in case their is any common interest, only on bid for a service area shall be considered. They were given option to retain only such bids so as to ensure fair competition. In response to this, M/s. Reliance Communications Private Limited chose to withdraw all the bids submitted by them for 15 Circles. This was allowed to the company. The Earnest Money Bank Guarantee (EMBG) and Financial Bids were returned to the company before the first stage Financial Bids were scheduled to the opened. Withdrawal of the bids by M/s Reliance Communications settled the matter. Allowing both the bids would have given rise to unfair competition leading to subsequent stages of financial bidding as infructuous. EMBG can not be forfeited in the situation where a bidder is disqualified in the pre-qualification stage or opted to withdraw the bids in terms of option given by the Government.

(d) Docs not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

NPA lying against Essar Oil

1000. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will be Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Performing Assets of the country's financial institutions shot up by 12 per cent to cross over Rs. 18,000/-crore during the last year as per latest report of RBI.

(b) if so, what are details thereof including the names of the top 20 companies heading in Non-Performing Assets;

(c) whether it is a fact that Essar Oil which is onc of the defaulting company was given fresh loans despite huge Non-Performing Assets; and

(d) if so, what are the details of fresh loans given to that company during the last three years?